

Ohio Beetles Bulletin

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Lampyridae:
Pollaclasis bifaria (Say)

The Ohio Beetles Bulletin (OBB) was developed to provide the Ohio Coleopterists membership a means of communication in conjunction with the Ohio Coleopterists Newsletter. It is hoped the OBB will provide an informative and enjoyable means of sharing information on the fascinating world of Beetles.

“When we have experienced the atavistic joy of collecting in the open air and the manipulative pleasure of setting and mounting our chosen beetles there follows the refined intellectual delight of naming them with precision”.

Quote by G.B. Walsh taken from the first edition of the Coleopterists Handbook. W.J.B. Crotch, General Editor London, December 1953.

Cover Photo: Specimen of *Pollaclasis bifaria* (Say) of the family Lampyridae. This is a monotypic genus and this seldom collected species is non-luminous. The bi-pectinate antennae and rugose elytra are diagnostic. Specimen approximately 8.5 mm. Ohio: Vinton County, Lake Hope State Park. Netted in flight during the day. 27-June-2009. Ken Karns specimen and photo.

OHIO COLEOPTERISTS

Annual Business Meeting

The Ohio coleopterists met on November 21, 2015 for the annual business meeting with the following officers elected for 2016:

President: George Keeney
Vice President: Richard Maxey
Treasurer: Cheryl Early
OBB Editor: Ken Karns
Photographer &
IT Coordinator: Scott Hogsten

The **Darkling Beetles** *of* **Ohio**



Charles A. Triplehorn
Kenneth D. Karns

The Darkling Beetles of OHIO

Available through The Ohio
Biological Survey:

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The Tenebrionidae or Darkling beetles, represented in Ohio by 70 species, are a conspicuous component of our Coleoptera fauna. It is the authors hope this publication will spawn additional interest in the study, conservation and distribution of Ohio beetles.

Staphylinidae: Tachyporinae

Notes on Species of the Genus: *Lordithon* Thomson

By: Ken Karns

This note serves to build upon the biological data presented in a paper that was published in the March 2015 issue of THE COLEOPTERIST BULLETIN by myself and good friend and fellow OC Member Marc Behrendt on members of the genus *Lordithon* recorded in southeastern Ohio.

In that paper we report four new Ohio state record species with notes on several rarely collected species, including the seldom seen *Lordithon niger* (Gravenhorst), *Lordithon axillaris* (Gravenhorst), new state record, and *Lordithon quaesitor* (horn), new state record. Campbell (1982), in his revision of the genus *Lordithon*, states nothing is known of the biology and/or ecology of the above listed species. Ongoing collecting efforts by the author have revealed some insight to limited biological data for these seldom encountered beetles.

***Lordithon niger* (Gravenhorst)**

Lordithon niger (figure 1) continues to prove a seldom collected species with my research suggesting a possible association with dead standing tress. This species has been repeatedly taken by the author from Lindgren Funnel Traps baited with ethanol and placed in upland hardwood forests. Webster et.al. (2012) collected this species in Canada from various fungi growing on dead standing beech and *Populus sp.* trees and from Lindgren Funnel Traps. This account also supports a possible association with dead standing timber. While collecting at my cabin property in Vinton County on July 17, 2015, I collected five specimens of *L. niger* by beating a dead standing specimen of Ironwood, *Carpinus caroliniana* Walt. (figure 2) encrusted with a fungus possibly of the genus *Steccherinum sp.* (figure 3). While *L. niger* may well have an affinity for

certain fungi that grow on dead wood, the more recent collection data suggests it is not restricted to old growth or virgin forests as suggested by Campbell (1982). Further research and observation may continue to shed light on the habits and associations of this scarce insect.

***Lordithon niger* (Gravenhorst)**

Staphylinidae: Tachyporinae

Subgenus: *Lordithon* C.G. Thomson

Campbell (1982) recognized two subgenera, *Lordithon* for those individuals with a short head as in *L. niger*, and *Bolitobus* for individuals with an elongate head (figure 6)

OHIO: Vinton County

17-July-2015

Beating dead standing *Carpinus caroliniana*
(8.5 mm)

Ken Karns specimen and photo.



(figure 1) *Lordithon niger* (Gravenhorst)



Dead standing snag of Iron Wood, *Carpinus caroliniana* Walt., at the authors Vinton County cabin property. This tree is located along a second order stream in mixed hardwood forest. The trunk is encrusted with fungi and the five specimens of *Lordithon niger* were dislodged into a beating sheet.

The fungi was tentatively determined to be a member of the genus *Steccherinum* sp. (figure 3)

(figure 2.) *Carpinus caroliniana* Walt.



(figure 3) *Steccherinum* sp.

Staphylinidae: Tachyporinae

Notes on Species of the Genus: *Lordithon* Thomson

(cont.)

***Lordithon axillaris* (Gravenhorst) New Ohio State Record**

Lordithon axillaris (figure 4) described by Campbell (1982) as “a rare species restricted to eastern North America”. Campbell further states “little is known about the habits of the species”. Campbell, in his revision of the genus, examined 65 specimens with only one being recorded as being collected from large-gilled mushrooms on the side of a log. The author has collected a good series of this species mainly from Flight Intercept traps set in an upland hardwood forest. Two specimens have been observed, and collected from two different types of “mushrooms” suggesting a generalist on various fungi and are likely feeding on various Diptera larvae (Campbell 1982). A single specimen was collected 25-September-2009 from a large specimen of the Polypore; *Grifola frondosa* (Fr.) or the “Hen of the Woods” mushroom which happens to be a choice edible! (G.H. Lincoff 1981). An additional specimen was collected 02-May-2016 from the Polypore *Polyporus squamosus* Fr., or the “Dryad’s Saddle” (figure 5) which also happens to be an edible mushroom (G.H. Lincoff 1981). It is worth noting that all specimens of *L. axillaris*, except the two specimens sited here, have been taken in Flight Intercept traps and none have been taken in Lindgren Funnel Traps.

This is in direct contrast to *L. niger* which has not been taken in Flight Intercept traps with all specimens taken either in the fungi described here or Lindgren Funnel traps.



(figure 4) *Lordithon axillaris* (Gravenhorst)



(figure 5) *Polyporus squamosus* Fr.

Lordithon axillaris (Gravenhorst)
Staphylinidae: Tachyporinae
Subgenus: *Lordithon* C.G. Thomson

OHIO: Vinton County
02-May-2016
On *Polyporus squamosus* Fr.
(8.0 mm)

Ken Karns specimen and photo

Staphylinidae: Tachyporinae

Notes on Species of the Genus: *Lordithon* Thomson

(cont.)

***Lordithon quaesitor* (Horn)) New Ohio State Record**

Lordithon quaesitor (figure 6) also described by Campbell (1982) as “a rare species known from eastern North America from southern Quebec and Ontario south to Illinois and Kentucky and along the Appalachian Mountains to North Carolina.” Campbell further states “nothing is known of the biology of this species”. The author published the first record for Ohio with the species being taken with some frequency from both Flight Intercept and Lindgren funnel traps in the same identical habitat as *L. niger* and *L. axillaris*. In addition, a single specimen was collected in West Virginia being and may prove a record for the state. *L. quaesitor* has not been observed on any fungus sampled in Ohio, but likely occurs in the same habitat as *L. niger* and *L. axillaris*. The West Virginia specimen was collected from fungus growing on a dead standing tree 04-June-2010.



***Lordithon quaesitor* (Horn)**

Staphylinidae: Tachyporinae

Subgenus: *Bolitobus* Tottenham

Campbell (1982) recognized two subgenera, *Lordithon* for those individuals with a short head as in *L. niger*, and *Bolitobus* for individuals with an elongate head as in *L. quaesitor*, seen here (figure 6)

OHIO: Vinton County
16-24 August-2012
Flight Intercept Trap, Upland Hardwood Forest.
(10 mm)
Ken Karns specimen and photo.

References:

Campbell, J.M. 1982. A revision of the genus *Lordithon* Thomson of North and Central America (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae) Memoirs of the Entomological Society of Canada 119: 1-116

Lincoff, G.H. 1981. National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms. Alfred A. Knopf, Publisher, New York

Webster, R.P., J.D. Sweeney, and I. DeMerchant. 2012. New Staphylinidae (Coleoptera) records with new collection data from New Brunswick and eastern Canada: Tachyporinae. Zookeys 186: 55-82

(figure 6) *Lordithon quaesitor* (Horn)